

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3827.145

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

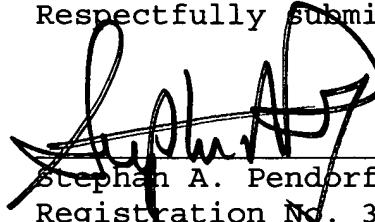
The specification is amended to indicate that this application is a ***national stage*** of PCT/EP2004/005120 filed May 13, 2004 and based upon DE 103 26 140.0 filed June 6, 2003 and based upon DE 103 56 310.5 filed November 28, 2003 under the International Convention.

The abstract have been added.

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added to the application.

Favorable consideration and entry of the foregoing amendments prior to examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephan A. Pendorf', is written over a horizontal line.

Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

PENDORF & CUTLIFF
5111 Memorial Highway
Tampa, Florida 33634-7356
(813) 886-6085

Date: **December 6, 2005**

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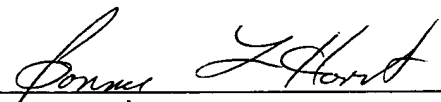
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EV687310469US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 6, 2005

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated with sufficient postage and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.



Bonnie L. Horst